IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 7, 9, 13, 17, 20, 30, 32, and 36 as follows:

sub B1 a2

7(amended). A method of treating a patient having chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon-alfa and ribavirin for a time sufficient to substantially lower HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant for a time sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

a3

9(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the antioxidant is Vitamin A, Vitamin E, Vitamin C, coenzyme-Q10, butylated hydroxylanisole ("BHA"), butylated hydroxyltoluene ("BHT"), N-acetylcysteine, selenium, 4,4'-isopropylidenedithiobis-2,6-dit-butylphenol("panavir"), silybum marianum, lycopene, or mixtures thereof.

a4

13(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprising 3 Million International Units ("MIU"), three times a week (" TIW") of interferon alfa-2b and about 600 mg to about 1600 mg/day, orally ("PO") of ribavirin is administered for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks.

a5

17(amended). The method of claim 7 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 μg/kg, once a week ("QW") of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

a6

20(amended). A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises administering to said patient for a first time period of at least about 24 weeks a therapeutically effective amount of interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to substantially lower detectable HCV-RNA in association with a

a6 cont. therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis.

a7 30(amended). The method of claim 20 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 μg/kg, QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.

a8 32(amended). A method of treating a patient having a chronic HCV infection which comprises (a) administering to said patient for a first time period a therapeutically effective amount of a combination therapy of interferon alfa and ribavirin sufficient to substantially lower detectable HCV-RNA in association with a therapeutically effective amount of an antioxidant sufficient to ameliorate ribavirin-related hemolysis; and (b) thereafter administering about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin in association with the antioxidant for a second time period of at least about 24 weeks after the end of the first time period.

a9 36(amended). The method of claim 32 wherein the combination therapy comprises about 0.5 to about 1.5 μg/kg/day, QW of pegylated interferon alfa-2b and about 600 to about 1600 mg/day of ribavirin.